

# MOTACILLA SUTORIA.



## CHARACTER GENERICUS.

*Rostrum* subulatum, rectum: mandibulis subæqualibus.

*Nares* ovatæ.

*Lingua* lacero-emarginata.

*Lin. Syst. Nat.* p. 328.

## CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

MOTACILLA tota flava minima.

MOTACILLA futoria.

*Zool. Ind.* p. 17. t. 8.

SYLVIA futoria.

*Latb. ind. orn.* p. 551.

MOTACILLA futoria.

*Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel.* p. 997.

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Avium in nidificando varium et admirandum ingenium suave est philosopho contemplari. Aliæ, Fringilla nempe coelebs, Fringilla Carduelis, et variorum Parorum species, non sine magno labore nidos construunt concinnos et elegantes: aliæ nullo fere

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negotio

negotio receptaculum sibi rude et incompositum comparant: aliæ nidum sere nullum facientes satis putant si cavum aliquod in arbore nactæ super molli et putrido ligno ova deposuerint: sunt etiam quæ in gramine pariunt vel inter lapides. Hirundinum genus arte quadam cæmentitia cunabula e luto compacta affigunt muris caminisque; et parvula est species in Sina Indicisque insulis probe cognita, quæ cum ab aquis vicinis satis materiæ gelatæ collegerit, firme nidificat de indurato glutine. In Indiæ et Americæ regionibus calidioribus altius quiddam sapere videntur aves, quarum multæ, Orioli scilicet et aliæ, cubilia de arborum ramis suspendunt modo vasis chemici cui collum retortum et elongatum, ventre capaci. Generat etiam Europa Parum pendulinum et alias paucas quæ prolem educant in cunis pendentibus, quarum margines mira solertia arundinibus alligaverunt. At his omnibus longe antecellit illarum avium acumen, quæ ad recipiendos pullos folium vel folia consuunt fibris vegetabilibus. Hujusmodi insigne exemplum ostendit tabula belle adeo et affabre contextum, ut artis potius humanæ quam aviculæ *αυτοδιδασκτου* opus videatur. Finito futuro opere, consternitur nidus plumis molli-  
bus, et lanugine e variis plantis collecta. Longa est avis circiter tres uncias, pondere levissimo. Ova, nisi errent qui se ea vidisse profiteantur, formicarum ovis (ut falso vulgoque vocantur, sunt enim revera chrysalides) vix majora. Motacillæ futoriæ, quam fide pictorum novimus (licet enim nidus sæpe in musæis inveniatur, ipsam avem vix unquam vidit physicus aliquis Europæus) color flavo-pallet. Va-  
rias

rias Indiæ partes incolit. In nido construendo interdum margines aduersos ejusdem folii confuit, interdum aridum viridi connectit, ut sit in nido quem cernere est in opere celeberrimi Pennanti cui titulus “ Zoologia Indica.” Supra notauimus aves Indicas ingeniotius nidificare. Pauca & levia sunt pericula quæ aves Europeæ tempore incubationis subeunt : at Indicas, quarum in perniciem sub omni fere arbusto latet serpens, & inter arbores ludo procaci invigilat insidiosa simiarum curiositas, Naturæ visum est majore quodam & acutiore *inglinetu* donare, ut astutia astutiæ par esset.







THE  
TAILOR WARBLER.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

*Bill* subulate; *strait*: mandibles nearly equal.

*Nostrils* nearly oval.

*Tongue* jagged or lacerated towards the tip.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Very small MOTACILLA, entirely yellow.

The TAILOR BIRD.

*Ind. Zool.* p. 7. pl. 8.

The TAILOR WARBLER.

*Lath. Syn.* 2. p. 515.

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The nidification of birds, or varied instinct exerted by those animals in providing proper and convenient receptacles for their future brood, is a subject highly worthy the attention of a philosophic mind. Some, as the Chaffinch, the Goldfinch, and the different species of Parrot or Titmice, are remarkable for constructing nests of peculiar neatness and elegance; while others exert little diligence in this respect, and arrange their materials in a far more careless

less manner; and some can scarce be said to form any regular nest, but content themselves with a convenient cavity in a tree, and deposit their eggs on the soft surface of the decayed wood. Others lay their eggs on the ground, amongst grass, or even amongst stones. Birds of the Swallow tribe practise a species of masonry, and attach their nests, formed of soft mud, to the sides of walls and chimnies; and a small species of this genus, not uncommon in China and the Indian islands, collects gelatinous materials from the surface of the neighbouring waters, and constructs with them a nest of a very durable nature, and consisting entirely of hardened gluten. In the hotter regions of India and America, where a higher species of instinct seems to prevail amongst birds, several species form nests which are so disposed as to hang from the branches of trees in the form of retorts or long-necked bottles, as the Orioli and some others. In Europe also the Parus Pendulinus and a few other birds attach their temporary habitations, at three or four places on the edge, to the adjoining reeds amongst which they build, and thus, with exquisite contrivance, form their "*pendent bed and procreant cradle.*" Lastly, some birds exert a still more curious species of instinctive ingenuity, and actually sew together, with vegetable fibres, the edges of one or more leaves, in order to form a convenient and unsuspected receptacle for their young. Of this very singular mode of nidification, the little bird, whose nest, with the young included, is represented on the annexed plate, affords perhaps the most eminent example; and sew  
with



with such dexterity the edges of the leaves selected for this purpose, that they seem rather to have been connected by human art, than that of an uninstructed animal. When the operation of sewing the leaves is finished, the cavity is lined with feathers, and down collected from various vegetables. The size of this bird is very small: its length scarce exceeding three inches, and its weight proportionally light. The eggs, if there be no mistake in the reports of those who have seen them, are said scarce to exceed the size of what are commonly, but erroneously, termed ant's eggs, (which in reality are the cases including the aureliæ or pupæ of those insects.) The color of the bird is a pale yellow. It is, however, principally on the faith of drawings that we are enabled to describe the bird itself, which, though the nest is often seen in museums, does not yet appear to have been in the possession of any scientific European naturalist. It is an inhabitant of several parts of India. In forming its nest it sometimes makes use of a dead or withered leaf, which it connects to a living one; at other times uses but one leaf, sewing together the opposite edges. A nest of this bird has been figured in Mr. Pennant's Indian Zoology, in which the former of these methods has been practised.

It has been already observed, that it is chiefly amongst the birds of India that these extraordinary instances of ingenuity occur. In Europe, the dangers to which these animals are liable during their state of incubation are comparatively few; while in India, where every thicket conceals the gliding  
serpent,

serpent, and tribes of restless animals of the monkey kind are perpetually wandering about the woods, such an increase of foresight in the feathered tribe is the more necessary, in order to guard them from the numerous dangers to which they would otherwise be exposed.